United Nations A/71/424–S/2016/834

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
3 October 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda items 32 and 37

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 29 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey herewith the records of the violations of the ceasefire by the Republic of Armenia in August 2016 (see annex).* During the reporting period, Armenia violated the ceasefire regime 486 times and continued the usage of large-calibre guns and heavy weaponry from its positions in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and from its own territory.

The continuous occupation of a large part of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of Armenia remains the main obstacle to the settlement of the conflict and the only source of the escalation of the situation on the front line and of occurrences of hostilities and casualties.

The sooner the Republic of Armenia withdraws its troops from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the sooner peace and stability can be restored in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32 and 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar T. Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia for August 2016*

Date (week)	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damage*
1-8 August	Gulustan village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/PKM	2	
	Talysh village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PK	11	
	Talysh and Zeyva villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/DShK	2	
	Unnamed heights of Goranboy district, Azerbaijan	AK/DShK/PK	5	
	Merzili village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PK	10	
	Seysulan and Gapanli villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	SVD	1	
	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	8	
	Unnamed heights of Khojavand district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alykhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/SVD	4	
	Garakhanbeyli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	RPG	1	
	Horadiz village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/AK	10	
	Garvand and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	3	
	Unnamed heights of Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	AK	4	
	Yukhary Abdurrahmanly and Shukurbayly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	5	
	Jojug Marjanly village (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	RPG/PKM/AK	5	
	Lala-Ilahy village (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights of Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	

Abbreviations: AK, Kalashnikov assault rifle; AKM, modernized Kalashnikov assault rifle; DShK, heavy machine gun; OSV-96, semi-automatic sniper rifle; PK, Kalashnikov machine gun; PKM, modernized Kalashnikov machine gun; RPG, handheld anti-tank grenade launcher; SVD, sniper rifle.

* Settlements of the Republic of Azerbaijan included in this information are under occupation by the Republic of Armenia or situated close to the fire point areas.

Date (week)	Direction (locality)	Weapons used	Number of ceasefire violations	Casualties and damage
	Bala Jafarli and Garapapagly villages (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	4	
	Gaymagly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	OSV-96/PK	5	
	Gushchu Ayrum village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK/AKM	2	
	Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Kemerli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	2	
	Musakoy village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PK	2	
	Aghbulag village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Aghdam village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	1	
	Kyran village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	1	
	Kokhanabi village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Muncuglu village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Kohna Gyshlag village (Aghstafa district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Unnamed heights of Aghstafa district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Alakhanchally village (Dashkesen district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/AK/PKM	3	
	Unnamed heights of Gazakh district, Azerbaijan	AK	3	
	Unnamed heights of Goygol district, Azerbaijan	AK	4	
	Shynykh village (Gedebey district, Azerbaijan)	DShK	1	
	Unnamed heights of Gedebey district, Azerbaijan	SVD/AK/DShK/PK	4	
9-16 August	Gulustan village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PK	9	
	Talysh and Zeyva villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	3	
	Talysh and Seyidimli villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights of Goranboy district, Azerbaijan	DShK/PKM/PK/AK	18	
	Garadaghly village (Beylagan district, Azerbaijan)	AK	4	
	Merzili village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Chayly village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AKM/AK	4	
	Karmiravan village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK/DShK/AK	7	
	Kuropatkino village (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	4	
	Unnamed heights of Khojavand district, Azerbaijan	PK/AK	5	
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alykhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	4	
	Garakhanbeyli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	3	
	Horadiz village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM/PK	14	

Date (week)	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damage*
	Unnamed heights of Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PK	8	
	Unnamed heights of Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan	AK/PK	6	
	Farahli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AKM/AK	4	
	Gaymagly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/AK/OSV-96	14	
	Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Kemerli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Kokhanabi village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	4	
	Muncuglu village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Kohna Gyshlag village (Aghstafa district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Unnamed heights of Gazakh district, Azerbaijan	AK/PK	10	
	Unnamed heights of Gedebey district, Azerbaijan	DShK/SVD/AK	3	
17-24 August	Gulustan village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/PKM/AK	4	
	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/AK	5	
	Unnamed heights of Goranboy district, Azerbaijan	DShK/AK/PKM	13	
	Bash Garvand village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Gyamaddinly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Merzili village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	1	
	Saryjaly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	4	
	Chayly village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	4	
	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AKM/AK	5	
	Levonarkh village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/AK	2	
	Seysulan and Gapanli villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	3	
	Unnamed heights of Khojavand district, Azerbaijan	AK	5	
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alykhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	5	
	Garakhanbeyli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	5	
	Horadiz village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	2	
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	4	
	Unnamed heights of Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	AK	4	
	Korgan and Shukurbayli villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	3	

Date (week)	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damage*
	Unnamed heights of Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Gaymagly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Ashagy Askipara village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Bala Jafarli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	2	
	Farahli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AKM/AK/PKM	3	
	Musakoy village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	2	
	Garalar village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/PK/AK	3	
	Kokhanabi village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Shikheybat village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	PK	1	
	Unnamed heights of Dashkesen district, Azerbaijan	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights of Gazakh district, Azerbaijan	AK	3	
	Unnamed heights of Gedebey district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
25-31 August	Gulustan village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/AK	2	
	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AKM/PKM	12	
	Talysh and Zeyva villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	1	
	Unnamed heights of Goranboy district, Azerbaijan	AKM/PKM	9	
	Javahirli village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Novruzlu village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Saryjaly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Borsunlu village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	4	
	Chayly village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM/DShK	10	
	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK/AKM	3	
	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK/DShK	12	
	Chakhyrly village (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK/ROP	3	
	Unnamed heights of Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan	AK	3	
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alykhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	12	
	Garakhanbeyli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	6	
	Horadiz village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	6	
	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	5	
	Shukurbayli and Yukhary Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights of Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Bala Jafarli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AKM/PKM	2	
	Gaymagly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/AK	3	

Date (week)	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damage*
	Gushchu Ayrum village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	3	
	Alibayli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/AK	3	
	Kemerli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	OSV-96/AK	3	
	Kokhanabi village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	5	
	Seysulan and Gapanli villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	4	
	Kohna Gyshlag village (Aghstafa district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights of Gazakh district, Azerbaijan	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights of Gedebey district, Azerbaijan	AKM/PK	8	
	Unnamed heights of Tovuz district, Azerbaijan	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights of Tartar district, Azerbaijan	AK	2	

United Nations A/71/425–S/2016/836

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
3 October 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 41
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 29 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 29 September 2016, addressed to you by the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Mehmet Dânâ (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit Çevik
Permanent Representative

16-17075 (E) 061016

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

29 September 2016

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letters dated 6 and 14 September 2016 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as documents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/70/1031-S/2016/760 and A/71/388-S/2016/785, respectively), which yet again contain false assertions similar to those made in his previous letters. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

At the outset, regarding the claims of so-called "infringements of international air traffic regulations" and "violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey", I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. As for the false assertions regarding the "illegally issued notices to airmen", it must be underlined that activities within the Ercan advisory airspace that require notices to airmen are carried out by or coordinated with the relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in accordance with article 3 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

Similarly, the claim in the letters regarding the Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. Furthermore, this claim ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As to the repeated false allegations regarding Ercan Airport in the North, it should once again be underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan area control centre and airport in North Cyprus have been providing regular, reliable and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island, in line with its isolation policy that has been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people. Ever since, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have taken place with the full knowledge and permission of the Civil Aviation Department of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control.

Moreover, the isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriots, which the Greek Cypriot side attempts to perpetuate by encouraging the international community to deem all airports and seaports in Northern Cyprus as "illegal", is in complete contravention of international law, as well as the call made by the then Secretary-

General, Kofi Annan, in his report to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437), in which he clearly states: "I would hope they [members of the Security Council] can give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development, deeming such a move as consistent with Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984)".

The legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on aeronautical safety meets all standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, providing safe and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off from Ercan Airport and using airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. All airports in Northern Cyprus are in full conformity with international standards, and necessary investments have been made to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the increasing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan area control centre is in regular and close cooperation with the Ankara area control centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In 2015 alone, the number of passengers that used Ercan Airport stood at nearly 3,500,000 (compared with 3,250,000 in 2014), and a 7 per cent increase in that number is expected in 2016. Moreover, in 2015, nearly 26,000 planes used Ercan Airport for arrival and departure, and around 210,000 planes used the Ercan advisory airspace, a total which is expected to increase by 7 per cent in 2016. In that respect, it must be stressed that the Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety, in full conformity with the Chicago Convention of 1944, and that it is ready to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot authorities on this very important issue.

At a time when the comprehensive settlement negotiations are progressing swiftly in a result-oriented atmosphere, I deem it necessary to stress the need to fully channel all our efforts towards achieving a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters and the Joint Declaration of 11 February 2014, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with two constituent States of equal status. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue such counterproductive and outdated rhetoric, which is not reflective of the joint vision and cooperation expressed by the leaders of both communities on the island since the resumption of the settlement talks in May 2015. As the two future partners in the island of Cyprus, we should never lose sight of the fact that the solution to the Cyprus problem will comprehensively deal with all pending issues between the two sides and thus focus all our efforts towards the ultimate goal of settlement.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that, as the Turkish Cypriot side, we are committed to maintaining our constructive and positive stance within the context of your good offices mission in Cyprus and encourage our Greek Cypriot neighbours to follow a similar path.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/71/426–S/2016/373

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
20 October 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 126 (a)
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 22 April 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 13 April 2016 from Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (see annex). The letter forwards the Communiqué of the 588th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the situation in Western Sahara, held in Addis Ababa on 6 April 2016.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 126 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

16-17122 (E) 251016

Please recycle

Annex

Letter dated 13 April 2016 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to bring to your attention and that of the United Nations Security Council, the Communiqué on the situation in Western Sahara, adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 588th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 6 April 2016.

The Peace and Security Council meeting was convened as a follow-up to the decisions on the situation in Western Sahara adopted by the relevant African Union policy organs.

I would like to express my appreciation for your recent mission to Western Sahara and the region. At the same time, I regret that the Moroccan authorities prevented you from visiting Rabat and the headquarters of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in the occupied city of Laayoune, capital of the occupied Western Sahara.

It is against this background that the Peace and Security Council strongly condemned the decision by Morocco to expel 84 international civil servants, including African Union personnel, from MINURSO and to deny you your visit to Rabat and Laayoune. This decision by Morocco constitutes a dangerous precedent by challenging and undermining the mandate of the United Nations Security Council in maintaining international peace and security.

The presence and operation of MINURSO in Western Sahara is pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991. The action by Morocco in preventing your visit further complicates the current deadlock in the peace process, rekindles tensions in Western Sahara and threatens regional security and stability at a time when the international community is mobilizing to find a solution to the conflict in Western Sahara in accordance with relevant Organization of African Unity/African Union and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

In light of these recent developments, the African Union Peace and Security Council, in its decision, calls upon the United Nations Security Council to fully assume its responsibility in the matter, by acting under Chapter VII, to demand that Morocco annul its decision to expel MINURSO personnel. The Peace and Security Council also urges the United Nations Security Council to reaffirm the full mandate of MINURSO, including the setting of a date for the organization of a referendum on the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. The Peace and Security Council emphasized the need for the international community to continue to provide support for your ongoing efforts and those of your Personal Envoy, Ambassador Christopher Ross, towards a solution to the conflict in accordance with international legality.

In this respect, I look forward to the renewal of the mandate of MINURSO after the expiry of its current mandate on 30 April 2016, as decided by the Security Council in its resolution 2218 (2015) of 28 April 2015.

I would also like to urge the United Nations Security Council to take the steps necessary to provide MINURSO with a human rights mandate, taking into account

the need to ensure sustained, independent and impartial monitoring of human rights in both the Territory and the refugee camps, and request the High Commissioner for Human Rights to take appropriate steps in this respect.

I would therefore appreciate if the enclosed African Union Peace and Security Council Communiqué of its 588th meeting could be circulated as an official document of the United Nations Security Council and of the United Nations General Assembly (see enclosure).

Your assistance in ensuring that my High Representative, Joaquim Chissano, is given the opportunity to address the Security Council during its April 2016 meeting on Western Sahara will also be highly appreciated.

(*Signed*) Nkosazana **Dlamini-Zuma**

Enclosure

Communiqué of the 588th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, held on 6 April 2016

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 588th meeting held on 6 April 2016, adopted the following decision on the situation in Western Sahara:

Council

1. *Takes note* of the briefing provided by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the situation in Western Sahara, of the update provided by the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission for Western Sahara, former President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique. Council *also takes note* of the statement made by the Minister for African Affairs of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, as well as by the representatives of Senegal, Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, New Zealand, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the United Nations and the European Union;

2. *Recalls* its earlier decisions on the situation in Western Sahara, namely Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM/1.(CDXCVI) and Press Statement PSC/PR/COMM.2(DII), adopted at its 496th and 503rd meetings held on 27 March and 30 April 2015, respectively; *also recalls* Communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.4(DXLVII), adopted at the 547th meeting of the Council, held in New York on 26 September 2015, at the level of Heads of State and Government, in which it urged the United Nations Security Council to fully assume its responsibilities and take all necessary measures to rapidly resolve the Western Sahara conflict and find an effective response to issues related to respect for human rights and the illegal exploitation of natural resources of the Territory;

3. *Further recalls* decision Assembly/AU/Dec.598(XXVI), adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2016, reiterating the African Union's call for the early resolution of the four-decade long conflict in Western Sahara, in line with international legality, and appealing once again to the United Nations Security Council to fully assume its responsibility in this respect with a view to achieving a fair, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in the context of arrangements consistent with the United Nations principles and purposes, as well as reiterating calls to the United Nations General Assembly regarding the determination of a date for the holding of the self-determination referendum for the people of Western Sahara and protection of the integrity of the Western Sahara as a Non-Self-Governing Territory from any act which may undermine it, including the preservation of its natural resources;

4. *Notes with deep concern* that, in spite of the sustained efforts made, including by the successive Personal Envoys of the United Nations Secretary-General, no progress has been made in the search for an effective solution to the conflict in Western Sahara, which has been in a stalemate for more than four decades;

5. *Commends* the efforts of United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, in the search for a settlement to the conflict in Western Sahara, and *welcomes* his visit undertaken to Western Sahara and the region, from 2 to 7 March 2016. Council *strongly encourages* the United Nations Secretary-General to prevail in his efforts and *reassures* him of the full support of the African Union;

6. *Condemns strongly* the decision by Morocco to expel 84 international civil servants, including African Union personnel, from the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and for denying the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General to Rabat and to Laayoune, capital city of occupied Western Sahara and MINURSO headquarters, which constitutes a very dangerous precedent in that it challenges and undermines the mandate of the United Nations Security Council in maintaining international peace and security. In this regard, Council *emphasizes* that the presence and operation of MINURSO in Western Sahara is pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991. Furthermore, Council *stresses* that the decision by Morocco further complicates the current deadlock in the peace process, rekindles tensions in Western Sahara and threatens regional security at a time when the international community is mobilizing to find a solution to the conflict in Western Sahara in accordance with international legality, including relevant Organization of African Unity/African Union and United Nations Security Council resolutions;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations Security Council to fully assume its responsibility in the matter, by acting under Chapter VII, to demand that Morocco annul its decision to expel MINURSO personnel. Furthermore, Council *urges* the United Nations Security Council to reaffirm the full mandate of MINURSO, including the organization of the referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and *stresses the need* for the international community as a whole to continue to provide support for the ongoing efforts by United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, and his Personal Envoy, Christopher W. S. Ross, towards materializing the solution to the conflict in accordance with international legality;

8. *Looks forward* to the renewal of the mandate of MINURSO at the expiration of its current mandate, on 30 April 2016, as decided by the Security Council in its resolution 2218 (2015) of 28 April 2015. Council *urges* the United Nations Security Council to take the steps necessary to provide MINURSO with a human rights mandate, taking into account the need to ensure sustained, independent and impartial monitoring of human rights in both the Territory and the refugee camps. Council *requests* the High Commissioner for Human Rights to take appropriate steps in this respect. Council *further reiterates* its request to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to undertake, as soon as possible, a mission to Western Sahara and to the refugee camps in Tindouf to assess the human rights situation and make recommendations to Council. In this regard, Council *urges* the Government of Morocco to extend full cooperation to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular by allowing it to access the Territory;

9. *Notes with deep concern* the acute humanitarian situation in which the people of Western Sahara are living, the violation of human rights and the continuous illegal exploitation of the Territory's natural resources, regardless of the relevant multiple opinions and decisions of the African Union, as well as of international and regional organizations, on the matter;

10. *Commends* the European Union Court of Justice for its recent ruling, issued on 10 December 2015, annulling the trade deal in agricultural and fisheries products, concluded in March 2012, between the Kingdom of Morocco and the European Union, due to its inclusion of Western Sahara, and *calls upon* all concerned to respect the Court's ruling and desist from entering into any agreement that would violate the Saharawi people's permanent sovereignty over their natural resources;

11. *Reiterates* its decision PSC/PR/COMM/1.(CDXCVI), adopted at its 496th meeting held on 27 March 2015, to establish an International Contact Group for Western Sahara, in order to keep the issue on the international agenda and to mobilize the necessary support for the early resolution of the conflict, as well as to reactivate the Ad hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on the conflict in Western Sahara, established pursuant to resolution AHG/Res.92(XV), adopted at the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Khartoum from 18 to 22 July 1978. Council *renews its call* in this regard to the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake the necessary consultations to this end as well as to urgently undertake the necessary consultations for the finalization of the composition and the operationalization of the Ad hoc Committee;

12. *Also reiterates* paragraph 24 of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.598(XXVI), adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, which requests the African members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) to work with the Commission, including the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations, to present reports, through the Peace and Security Council, to the Assembly of the Union, on their efforts within the United Nations Security Council and the extent to which they managed to promote African positions as articulated by the Council, and *further requests* the Council to provide timely guidance to the A3 to facilitate consistency in the promotion and defence of African positions on issues of concern to the continent. In this regard, Council *urges* the A3 to comply with the Assembly of the Union and the Council decisions in their activities within the United Nations Security Council;

13. *Also reiterates* the African Union's commitment to continue to work towards the early resolution of the conflict in Western Sahara on the basis of international legality and relevant Organization of African Unity/African Union decisions and to cooperate closely with the United Nations. In this respect, Council *encourages* the Chairperson of the Commission to pursue and intensify her efforts, including through her African Union Special Envoy for Western Sahara, former President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, towards effective follow-up of the relevant provisions of the Communiqué. In particular, Council:

(a) *Requests* the African Union Special Envoy for Western Sahara to urgently undertake a consultation mission to the United Nations Secretariat in order to reiterate the African Union position and to be informed of the latest developments with regard to the United Nations engagements to overcome the impasse in the peace process as well as the operational situation of MINURSO, whose mandate expires on 30 April 2016;

(b) *Also requests* the United Nations Security Council and all its members to facilitate the African Union Special Envoy for Western Sahara's mission to New York, including granting to him an audience to address the United Nations Security Council during its forthcoming meeting on Western Sahara;

14. *Looks forward* to its 10th Annual Joint Consultative meeting with the United Nations Security Council, in May 2016, and *stresses* the need to use the opportunity of the meeting to discuss, among others, the issue of Western Sahara;

15. *Also looks forward with great interest* to the holding in Geneva of the Donors' Conference on Saharawi refugees, and *expresses its full support* to the United Nations Secretary-General's efforts aiming to ensure its early organization and success, to meet the needs and expectations of the Saharawi refugees;

16. *Welcomes* the forthcoming Saharawi High-level Solidarity Seminar and Photo Exhibition, to be hosted by the African Union Commission and Oxfam, from 25 to 28 April 2016, at the African Union headquarters, on the theme "40 Faces, 40 Years — A Lifetime in Exile", aimed at highlighting the humanitarian, socioeconomic and human rights tragedy of the Saharawis living in exile, on the occasion of the 40-year anniversary;

17. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to forward the present Communiqué to the two parties, namely the Polisario Front and the Kingdom of Morocco, for their information and action, as appropriate. Council *further requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit the Communiqué to the United Nations Secretary-General and to request that it be circulated as an official United Nations Security Council document for its forthcoming meeting on Western Sahara, as well as to other relevant international stakeholders;

18. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.